GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:887
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Cultivation of Rice in Andhra Pradesh
Reddy Shri Midhun

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh which was once called the rice bowl of the country is facing problem in the cultivation of paddy due to shortage/scarcity of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Indian Agriculture is dependent on monsoon and a good monsoon has benefitted agriculture. Rice in Andhra Pradesh is mostly irrigated through canals and streams which receive water either through rains or release of water from the dams which in turn depend on the rains in the catchment areas. Due to late and non release of sufficient water from Nagarjuna Sagar Project the area under Krishna delta is reduced.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that during 2016-17, area covered under Kharif paddy is 14.55 lakh hectares as against the normal area of 15.68 lakh hectares, which is less by 1.13 lakh hectares. The Government has focused on productivity enhancement of paddy.

(c): To overcome the shortage of water through Nagarjuna Sagar, the water is supplied to Krishna delta through Pattiseema project and Pulichintala project. Because of late release of water in Krishna delta, pre-kharif pulse crop is promoted in 50,000 hectares. Wherever possible, irrigated dry crops are promoted to bring uncovered delta paddy area into cultivation.

To enhance the production and productivity of paddy, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Government of India is also implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh. Under NFSM-Rice, various interventions are being implemented such as cluster demonstrations of latest crop production technologies, seed distribution of hybrids & high yielding varieties including stress tolerant varieties, soil ameliorants, plant protection measures, water saving devices, farm machinery/implements and capacity building of farmers.

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